

Washington Post

1-27-98



BY JUANA ARIAS—THE WASHINGTON POST
 Harry Crandell, 50, was raped and killed while working late at Prince George's Hospital Center.

ate an absolute pause for reflection.... We
 and there are things we need to do, and
 re going to do them. It's a major step."
 Using a temporary office at the hospital,
 Prince George's police detectives have inter-
 viewed dozens of colleagues and patients in
 search for Crandell's killer, but police
 officials won't say whether they are making
 progress.
 The hospital and its medical staff have

offered a \$25,000 reward for information
 leading to an arrest in the case.

In an interview yesterday, Atzrott defended
 hospital security, saying the changes prompt-
 ed by Crandell's death did not mean security
 had been insufficient before. "We may be no
 better, but we're certainly no worse than our
 peers," he said.

Atzrott acknowledged that security was a
 See SECURITY, B4, Col. 1

End-Space Launch Falls Flat

at Kent Gardens Elementary, one of
 Fairfax County's two French immersion
 schools. "At 10 years old, I don't let her go to
 mall alone. [French Guiana] is totally out of
 reach."
 His reaction has surprised Dominique Mali-
 cet, the French Embassy's cultural attache and
 official who came up the idea for the
 contest. There simply isn't enough money to fly
 students' parents to French Guiana, Mali-
 cet said. He also noted that the embassy is
 sponsoring a similar contest for students at
 20 schools in the United States that are
 tied with the French government—and

there have been no objections from French
 parents at those schools, he said.

Perhaps Americans are worried because
 their children haven't traveled as widely as
 French children of the same age, Malicet said.

"The students who go to immersion schools
 in Washington, many haven't traveled abroad,"
 he said. "Guiana might seem far and dark and
 dirty, and some Americans might not know
 what it is. I understand some are scared and
 reluctant, but I also believe some might be
 interested in discovering many other places
 besides the States."

See INVITATION, B5, Col. 1

Judge Urged To Set Aside Kasi Verdict

Attorneys Challenge Witness's Mental State

By Martin Weil and Wendy Melillo
 Washington Post Staff Writers

Lawyers for Mir Aimal Kasi, who
 was sentenced to death in the shoot-
 ing rampage outside CIA headquar-
 ters, asked yesterday that he be
 given a new trial because of informa-
 tion only recently disclosed to them
 about the mental state of one of the
 prosecution witnesses.

Kasi's attorneys argued that the
 revelation of the mental problems
 caused when Judy Becker-Darling
 saw her husband killed should re-
 quire the judge in the case to set
 aside the verdict against the man
 convicted of killing him. If they had
 known, they could have challenged
 her testimony, they said.

The defense attorneys said they
 learned only after the trial that Beck-
 er-Darling has been diagnosed as
 having post-traumatic stress disor-
 der, which they describe as a recog-
 nized mental disorder.

In their motion, filed yesterday in
 Fairfax County Circuit Court, the
 attorneys said they learned from
 material submitted with a present-
 ence report that she successfully
 filed a disability compensation claim
 with her employer, the CIA, and that
 she had been under medical treat-
 ment for five years after the shoot-
 ing.

Kasi's defense attorneys said her
 testimony provided the evidence on

See KASI, B7, Col. 4

Silver Spring Revitalization Plan Gets a Boost From Glendening

Governor Wants to Spend \$21.5 Million on Downtown

By Daniel LeDuc

citizens community to sound barriers for homes

FAIRFAX

Deer Hunt

Seventeen hunters killed 10 deer
 on the first day of controlled
 hunting in Fairfax County

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 DATE: NOV 2002

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Court Filing Outlines Evidence in Stowe Case

STOWE, From B1

apartment by fraudulently telling the building's management that it was to be used for an undercover police operation.

Stowe, who has agreed to cooperate in the investigation as part of a plea bargain, has promised "to provide full, complete and truthful testimony concerning what he and any other person(s) did in all phases of this matter and concerning events which may be relevant to other criminal investigations," according to the documents filed yesterday by the U.S. attorney's office for the District.

In an outline of evidence they have against Stowe, prosecutors also revealed that the apartment's telephone service was obtained in the "fictitious name of Kenneth Parker" and that some mail was received at the apartment in the name of Kenneth Parker.

Soulsby, who announced his retirement on the same day in November that Stowe was arrested, has acknowledged that he shared the apartment with Stowe and has said he paid his rent in cash. He has said he did not know about the reduced rent. He and Stowe, who retired shortly after his arrest in November, were longtime friends and golfing buddies.

Yesterday's court filing said: "The purpose of the scheme was for defendant Stowe and another person to obtain the use and privileges of a furnished apartment at the Lansburgh Apartments for a substantially reduced rent. The furnished apartment was obtained primarily to serve as the residence of that other person."

Stowe, who headed the department's special investigations section, declined to elaborate after his guilty plea. "I know you all have a lot of questions—probably thousands of questions—and I wish I could answer them," he told reporters.

He said he realized that "some of those questions concern other people that are in the [D.C. police department] and possibly others. Unfortunately, I cannot do that at this time. I wish I could. However, at the time of sentencing, I'll answer those questions."

Besides pleading guilty to wire fraud for lying to Lansburgh managers to obtain the rent discount, Stowe pleaded guilty to theft for embezzling \$55,000 from the department and to two counts of extortion for demanding payoffs from two married men in return for not revealing that the men had visited a gay club in Southeast Washington.

In a loud, firm voice, Stowe, 42, answered numerous questions from U.S. District Judge Thomas F. Hogan.

Under the deal, if Stowe cooperates fully and prosecutors persuade Hogan to grant a reduction in his sentence for "substantial assistance" in the investigation, the former police officer will be sentenced to 37 months to 46 months in prison. If he reneges on any part of the deal—or if Hogan refuses to go along with the prosecutors' request—Stowe will be sentenced to 51 months to 63 months in prison.

While judges always have the option of refusing to reduce a sentence in spite of a defendant's cooperation, Hogan stressed that even more with Stowe, making sure he understood that he is taking a chance.

Kasi Attorneys Question Key Witness's Mental State

KASI, From B1

which the prosecution relied in seeking the death penalty in the Jan. 25, 1993, shootings, in which Frank Darling, 28, and Lansing H. Bennett, 66, were killed. Three other men were wounded.

If they had known about Becker-Darling's diagnosis and treatment, the defense attorneys said, they could have attacked the credibility of her testimony at the trial, which ended Nov. 14 when the jury returned guilty verdicts and called for a sentence of death. The judge imposed that sentence Friday.

The shootings occurred when Kasi opened fire with an assault rifle on five automobiles stopped at a red light outside the entrance to CIA headquarters in Langley during the morning rush hour. Kasi fled to his native Pakistan and was arrested in June and returned to the United States.

In the motion filed yesterday, attorneys Crystal A. Meleen and Frank

W. Romano, of the public defender's office, said the defense learned of Becker-Darling's condition from victim impact statements submitted with a pre-sentence report.

They said they had asked before the trial for any evidence showing that witnesses suffered from conditions that could cast doubt on their testimony. Law requires that such information be made available, but no information on Becker-Darling's mental state was provided, the defense said.

Citing a medical reference work—the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders—they said that symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder include illusions, hallucinations and dissociative flashback episodes.

Symptoms also include "inability to recall an important aspect" of the event causing the condition, they said.

They said Becker-Darling's testimony about the timing and sequence of the shots and the effect on her

husband "was crucial" to establishing the justification for the death sentence.

If they had known of her diagnosis and treatment, they said, and the effect on her "observations, perceptions and memory," they would have been able to attack the credibility of her testimony.

In another motion, the lawyers asked that they be permitted to talk to jurors about issues raised in a Nov. 20 story in The Washington Post regarding jury deliberations. The story said two jurors initially had voted against the death sentence.

In a third motion, the defense attorneys argued that Kasi's capture in Pakistan in June was unlawful and that as a result, incriminating statements he made on his way back should not have been admitted into evidence.

Neither defense attorneys nor Commonwealth's Attorney Robert F. Horan Jr. could be reached by telephone last night for comment. Becker-Darling also could not be reached by phone.

Coming Sunday, Feb. 1

The African American Experience

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